

**MINUTES  
of the  
OFF-HIGHWAY VEHICLE ADVISORY GROUP (OHVAG)  
of  
ARIZONA STATE PARKS  
TELECONFERENCE MEETING OF JANUARY 11, 2008  
ARIZONA STATE PARKS  
1300 W. WASHINGTON ST., PHOENIX, ARIZONA  
602/542-9000**

**A. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL**

Chair Rogers called the meeting to order at 11:00am. Tanna Thornburg called the roll and announced a quorum.

Committee Members Present: Drew John  
Mike Sipes  
Rebecca Antle  
Jim Schreiner  
Pete Pfeifer  
Hank Rogers  
Santee McCullen

Committee Members Absent: None

Arizona State Parks (ASP) Staff: Dan Shein, Chief of Resource Management  
Tanna Thornburg, Chief of Planning  
Amy Racki, OHV Coordinator  
Bob Baldwin, Grants Coordinator  
Troy Waskey, OHV Planner  
Ruth Shulman, Advisory Group Coordinator

Other Individuals Present: Suzanne Gilstrap, Arizona Sportsmen for  
Wildlife/Arizona Sportsmen for Wildlife Conservation  
John Koleszar, OHVAG applicant  
John Savino, OHVAG applicant

## **B. ACTION ITEMS**

### **1. Discuss 2008 OHVAG Member Recommendations.**

Sandee McCullen began the discussion because she had requested this meeting in order to discuss the new member appointments. She feels that John Koleszar's bio may have contributed to any perceived confusion by emphasizing his sportsman qualifications over his OHV interests. Sandee McCullen spoke about the sportsman's use of OHVs to travel while hunting/fishing.

Mike Sipes said that OHVAG is the duly constituted board to advise the Arizona State Parks Board, and as such has made a decision on new members and forwarded the recommendation to the Board. He is disinclined to revisit the recommendation.

Sandee McCullen said that the Board had asked for further discussion before they can make their decision. Mike Sipes noted that if the Board had specific points of discussion and questions, that information should have been provided to OHVAG.

Amy Racki said that the purpose of the meeting was not to revisit any decisions, but rather to provide the ASP Board with a definition of what characteristics OHVAG views when recommending candidates. There are some characteristics already defined, such as geographical representation and representation of diverse OHV users. The discussion today should revolve on what qualities led the OHVAG to choose the candidates they did for 2008. The discussion should also help OHVAG members who wish to attend the ASP Board meeting on Friday, January 18, 2008 to comment by clarifying views.

Sandee McCullen asked John Koleszar to discuss his involvement with OHVs in order to clarify the perceived "slant" in his bio information. Chair Rogers noted that, as diversity goes, there is not complete representation of each diverse OHV user on OHVAG. While he feels it would be valuable to include sportsmen and their views as pertains to OHV, changing a previously made recommendation would not be the best way to accomplish that. He feels that OHVAG should review their representation characteristics and then add representatives as OHVAG feels necessary. Sandee McCullen said that rendering OHVAG too specific would lead to many other issues, and an unnecessary focus on representation rather than the core of OHVAG's work.

Rebecca Antle said that because OHVAG is the only group advising the state on motorized recreation, their emphasis should be on representing motorized recreationists. OHVAG should be defined as a group representing the motorized recreationists to the ASP Board, and adding other recreationists to OHVAG would dilute their purpose. Discussion of the OHVAG charter followed.

Amy Racki read the charter: "Five members must be off-highway vehicle recreationists affiliated with an organized off-highway vehicle group and two members of the advisory group must represent the general public or casual OHV recreationists."

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Sandee McCullen reiterated that she would still prefer John Koleszar to explain his views on OHV use and his intent in applying to OHVAG. Chair Rogers said that he has known John Koleszar for a long time and feels he could make a positive addition to OHVAG, that sportsmen and OHV users intersect and should find ways to work together, but, again, the proper way to add representation is for OHVAG to consider the changes and make them viable for the next recruitment cycle.

Mike Sipes said he felt that if the conversation was going to revolve around the candidates, and there were multiple applicants, every candidate should be included in the discussion.

Tanna Thornburg said that the discussion at this meeting is not about individual candidates but rather about the representative makeup of OHVAG. The Board has asked that OHVAG consider the membership and which groups should be represented. Because “sportsmen” are not specifically listed as a represented group, OHVAG is being asked to review the representation and make a recommendation to the Board. Chair Rogers said that he felt that the Board should direct OHVAG to change the representation if they feel that’s what necessary. Several OHVAG members noted that they are sportsmen as well as OHV users. Tanna Thornburg noted that most OHV users on OHVAG are members representing organized OHV groups. She said that a representative from an organized sportsmen’s group would include what’s being suggested if OHVAG decides to include a more diverse level of representation.

Mike Sipes asked if a motion to make a recommendation to the Board was necessary. Amy Racki said that the discussion of representation is more in-depth and should be an agenda item for another meeting.

Drew John said that he agreed with Mike Sipes that if the Board wants the makeup of OHVAG to change, they should direct OHVAG to do so. He feels that too many representational additions could have the effect of “watering down” OHVAG.

Becky Antle said that she feels the citizen-at-large members are capable of representing other diverse interests. A discussion of which current members represent which OHV interests followed. Sandee McCullen noted that the geographic representation has also been very important in the past, and it covers a number of recreation possibilities as well.

Tanna Thornburg noted that the specific issue before the group is changing the OHVAG charter to make it more inclusive if OHVAG agrees that is necessary. However, there are never enough open slots at recruitment time to add members representing each interest. Adding sportsmen as a possible category does not mean OHVAG must add a sportsman now. Does OHVAG want to add other interest categories, is the question before the group.

An informal poll of OHVAG followed with each member affirming their belief that the membership criteria should stand as is, as should the process for recommending new members for appointment. Drew John also noted that the membership selection process

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should avoid becoming politicized, especially with the need to pass effective OHV legislation.

Amy Racki noted that she had received a request to speak from Suzanne Gilstrap. Chair Rogers recognized Suzanne Gilstrap. Suzanne Gilstrap thanked the chair for the opportunity to speak. She noted that through multiple discussions with OHV users regarding the Legislation prior to the vote on the previous, it was made clear that the sportsmen are looking for representation on OHVAG. This representation could be either as an individual sportsman, or as a member of an organized sportsmen's group. Those members of OHVAG who discussed their hunting/fishing credentials today are on OHVAG as OHV users rather than sportsmen. She went on to note that during discussion regarding the legislation, the sportsmen had wanted to specify in statute positions on OHVAG. However, they agreed not to do that because they were told there is no reason a sportsman could not be a member of OHVAG as a citizen-at-large. When John Koleszar submitted his application to OHVAG it was as a citizen-at-large member, and she feels that John Koleszar was not given proper consideration. More than that, she feels that OHVAG is not following its own rules by appointing a desert racer, who could be considered neither a representative of the general public nor a casual OHV user. They will continue to pursue having a member of an organized sportsmen's group as a member of OHVAG.

Chair Rogers noted that he did not recall any specific conversation regarding sportsmen as members of OHVAG at the legislation discussion meetings. Suzanne Gilstrap said that the discussion happened during a meeting with Sandee McCullen and Jeff Gursh. She also said that her issue remains that the citizen-at-large position is not properly filled with either a member of the public or a casual OHV user and asked OHVAG to respond to that. Amy Racki read the entire charter paragraph at Sandee McCullen's request: "The Board hereby establishes an Off-Highway Vehicle Advisory Group consisting of seven members with no more than two members residing in one county. Five members must be off-highway vehicle recreationists affiliated with an organized off-highway vehicle group and two members of the advisory group must represent the general public or casual OHV recreationists."

Sandee McCullen noted that it may be the definition of "casual" that is causing some concern. Fifteen years ago when the OHVAG was formed, the entire sport was different.

Chair Rogers asked John Savino if he was currently a competitive racer or an organizer of competitive races. John Savino said that he did not currently race competitively, and has not for the past two years. His sons race, and he is involved peripherally with them. He participates in some ATV events around various parts of the state. Chair Rogers asked John Savino if he specifically considered himself a "casual OHV recreationist" to which John Savino replied that he did.

Sandee McCullen noted that she recalled the conversation Suzanne Gilstrap mentioned, and also recalled saying to Suzanne Gilstrap at the time that she felt all OHV users were represented on OHVAG as it stands. She also asked John Savino if he considered himself

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a casual sportsman as well. John Savino said that he feels qualified to represent sportsman as well as he is a hunter. He also noted that he had attended the OHVAG meeting where OHVAG discussed the 2008 applicants and he feels that the discussion and vote was fair. Sandee McCullen clarified that her question about casual OHV use was directed toward John Koleszar, and whether he considered himself a casual OHV user when he was out hunting. John Koleszar said that he considers himself a casual OHV user because while out in his 4x4 he uses unpaved roads to reach hunting spots within "the forest".

Amy Racki noted that the charter specifies the general public OR casual OHV recreationists. The "general public" is usually defined as "anyone".

Chair Rogers asked to clarify whether Suzanne Gilstrap feels that a commitment to add a sportsman to OHVAG's membership had been made to her during the conversation with Sandee McCullen and Jeff Gursh. Suzanne Gilstrap replied that she did not feel any commitment had been made, rather that it was said that a sportsman could be part of the OHVAG makeup. Chair Rogers said that OHVAG is open at any time to any member of the public who would like to discuss a properly agendized topic, and perhaps that route might have been more effective for the sportsmen.

Sandee McCullen also noted to Suzanne Gilstrap that the geographical range of members is deeply considered when new members are added to OHVAG, especially in light of the required that no more than two members reside in the same county. Sandee McCullen said that she felt the candidate selection this year was fair, and that she would like to see any contention resolve itself.

Chair Rogers asked if any other members of the public wanted to address the committee. There being none, he then asked Amy Racki if any motions were required on the topic. Amy Racki said that no motions were required at this time, but that the topic would be part of a future agenda. Chair Rogers polled the members to see who might attend the Board meeting on January 18. Chair Rogers will attend, as will Drew John, Sandee McCullen, and Mike Sipes. Pete Pfeifer will be available by telephone to answer questions from the Board. John Savino will attend as a recommended candidate.

**2. Consider Extending Project End Date and Modifying the Approved Scope for Recreational Trails Program (Motorized Portion) Project #470301 AZ OHV Multi-Agency Coordinated Project.**

Bob Baldwin presented the background on this extension request. The original grant was due to be completed by November 3, 2007, which did not happen. The BLM also requested that the agreement be amended to add the small project items submitted originally to the small project program. Because there would be some funds available under the grant, it was decided to add the small projects as grant scope items rather than use the money in the small projects fund.

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Becky Antle asked whether these small projects under consideration were a new request. Bob Baldwin said that these items were requested last year, and as these projects were similar to others being done under the grant, it was decided to add the small projects to the scope of the existing RTP grant. Becky Antle then asked about the breakdown of the small projects. Bob Baldwin said that the project descriptions listed in the breakdown were taken verbatim from the BLM's small projects application. Becky Antle asked about the item listing "gasoline and tire repair" and whether that was an eligible item. Bob Baldwin replied that it is an eligible item as long as the vehicles were used to complete grant-specific projects, especially if the vehicle use was listed as part of the match. Becky Antle then asked about matching funds, and the list of the Youth Corps services as a matching fund. Bob Baldwin clarified that any expenditure made to accomplish the goals of the project and is within the project area can be used as matching funds for purposes of the grant. He also noted that the match on this grant had exceeded the required 20%.

Sandee McCullen asked if any part of the original scope of the grant had been dropped. Bob Baldwin said that acquisition items in Mojave County fell through, and those items were dropped, which opened the funds for the small projects. No other items were deleted or reduced.

Pete Pfeifer asked how much of the listed projects were completed. Bob Baldwin noted that approximately 60% has been completed including small projects and inventory. There has been no particular delay, the project is simply moving along slowly. In particular, the signage is being purchased in bulk once the complete inventory of all project areas is completed.

Sandee McCullen asked about the length of the extension. Bob Baldwin clarified that the extension would be until November 3, 2009.

Drew John moved to extend the project end date for Recreational Trails Program (Motorized Portion) Project #470301 – AZ OHV Multi-Agency Coordinated Project by twelve months to November 3, 2008, and that this recommendation be forwarded to the State Parks Board for final action. Sandee McCullen and Mike Sipes simultaneously seconded the motion, which carried with no further discussion.

Mike Sipes moved to amend the approved scope for Recreational Trails Program (Motorized Portion) Project #470301 – AZ OHV Multi-Agency Coordinated Project to include the ten proposed small projects with no increase in the grant amount upon review and approval of the NEPA requirements by the FHWA, and that this recommendation be forwarded to the State Parks Board for final action. Pete Pfeifer seconded the motion which carried with no further discussion.

### **C. CALL TO THE PUBLIC**

None.

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**D. SUMMARY OF CURRENT EVENTS, MATTERS OF BOARD  
PROCEDURE, REQUESTS AND ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS**

Mike Sipes asked that Amy Racki ensure that the ASP Board agenda is provided to OHVAG prior to their January 18, 2008 meeting. Drew John suggested that OHVAG discuss its structure, possibly over the course of several meetings.

**E. TIME AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting is scheduled for Friday, February 1, 2008 at the Ben Avery Shooting Facility at 1:00pm. OHVAG members who wish to participate in a discounted trap-shoot session at \$10.00 per person are welcome to do so beginning at 10:00am.

Future meetings are: May 2, the joint meeting with ASCOT in Phoenix; August 8 at a location to be determined; and November 7-8 for the annual field trip meeting.

**F. ADJOURNMENT**

Chair Rogers entertained a motion to adjourn. Mike Sipes moved to adjourn the meeting. Sandee McCullen seconded the motion, which carried with no further discussion. The meeting adjourned at 12:15pm.